

Florida House of Representatives
Representative Kelly Skidmore
District 90

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April 20, 2009

Deputy Assistant Secretary Douglas F. Small
U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Small:

I am writing to seek clarification on whether there are any actions that the U.S. Department of Labor would take if a state legislature repealed the provisions which allowed the state to obtain Unemployment Modernization payments under the recently-enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Specifically, I am seeking to identify whether the Department of Labor would move to reclaim any portion of the incentive payments provided to the state.

As we in the Florida House of Representatives are moving to consider much-needed changes to state law that could qualify the State of Florida for Unemployment Modernization payments, there are some opponents who insist that the federal government would not permit any future repeal of state law under any circumstances at all. Although it is our intention to ensure that benefit expansions are permanent and not transitory, the additional information would help us to eliminate any ambiguity or misinformation that may remain as we move to provide assistance to the unemployed in the State of Florida.

The Florida House and Senate will be in conference this week to finalize the state budget before our Regular Session ends on May 1, 2009. As such, I would greatly appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and respectfully request a response by e-mail as soon as possible. I appreciate the help and look forward to your response.

All the best,



Kelly Skidmore
State Representative, District 90

KS/ab

Full Appropriations Council on General Government & Health Care * Governmental Affairs Policy Committee
Health & Family Services Policy Council * Health Care Regulation Policy Committee * Policy Council

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